

Testing Soil in Your Yard

The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, L.L.C. (CTEH), a private firm specializing in the public health effects of chemicals, has been retained by Stolthaven New Orleans, L.L.C. (Stolthaven) to collect soil and sediment samples from your yard and sediment in your home to test for the presence of certain chemicals. This process will be conducted under the direction and oversight of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), following a protocol approved by the emergency response Unified Command team. This information sheet describes the procedures that will be followed to collect and test the soil from your yard.

How will the samples be collected?

Environmental scientists from CTEH will collect about a cup full of soil from each of five randomly-selected locations in your yard. The samples collected from each location will be combined together and thoroughly mixed to form a single sample. An additional single sample will be collected from a location in your yard that looks to the scientists like a “worst-case” sample. We will also collect some flood-related sediment from inside your house, if available. We won’t sample from any location on your property that has obvious contamination from sources such as cars, lawnmowers, boats, etc. These samples will be sent under chain-of-custody to Pace Analytical Services, Inc., a testing laboratory located in St. Rose, Louisiana. When they are finished, the scientists will fill the holes with soil from your yard.

What tests will be performed on my soil?

Your soil and sediment samples will be tested for various chemicals using methods allowed by LDEQ. It will also be tested for total organic carbon using a U.S. EPA method.

Will I get to see the results of the testing?

Yes. As described in the Property Access Agreement you signed, upon written request, Stolthaven will provide you with a copy of the results of the testing of your yard soils.

Will the results be compared to any standard?

Yes. The results of the testing of your soil will be compared to residential soil standards established by the LDEQ in their Risk Evaluation Corrective Action Program (RECAP). These standards were established to protect the health of residents of the State of Louisiana.

How long will all of this take?

It should take no longer than about an hour to collect the soil samples from your yard, and about 1 – 2 weeks to get you the test results.

Where do I call if I have any questions?

Stolthaven has established a community hotline that you can call to ask any questions. The number for this hotline is 866-890-8576. You may also call this number if you feel you have a claim to make against Stolthaven.